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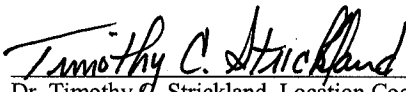
SUBJECT: Environmental Management System (EMS) Policy

TO: All Employees

FROM: Tamara Snipes, EMS Coordinator

The Tifton, Georgia location of USDA-ARS conducts research to develop solutions to agricultural problems of high national priority. The Location will strive to integrate environmental stewardship into daily operations. The organization and programs will be managed in a manner that protects the environment, the safety of the employees, and the public health. The EMS policy statement is reviewed with the staff during EMS awareness training sessions and during EMS management review meetings. The EMS Coordinator is responsible for maintaining records pertaining to the EMS Policy. In order to comply with Executive Order 13148 "Greening the Government Through Environmental Leadership," the Location will:

- Comply fully with all Federal, State, and local environmental laws and regulations.
 - A committee will be maintained whose responsibility is to remain current with applicable laws and regulations that directly affect the EMS activities for the facility and assure facility compliance.
- Reduce pollution by monitoring generation and emission of waste by the facility.
 - The facilities current pollution potential will be evaluated and procedures for pollution reduction will be assessed. Performance indicators may be established to provide insight into the progress of pollution reduction.
- Reduce the impacts of the facility's consumable items on the environment.
 - The use of energy, water, and other natural resources will be monitored and wastes will be eliminated where possible.
 - Environmentally friendly materials will be used when possible.
 - Recycling efforts will be supported.
- Provide appropriate training and education to employees so they may become environmentally responsible on the job.
 - A variety of training and communication tools will be used to educate the facility's employees about this environmental management system and how to apply its policies and principles to their everyday work.
- Monitor our environmental performance for continual improvement through evaluations.
 - Annual environmental performance reviews will be conducted by the EMS committee.
 - Other environmental reviews will be conducted periodically as suggested by the EMS committee.
 - The effectiveness of the EMP's will be continuously improved by establishing appropriate environmental objectives and performance indicators to guide our efforts and measure our progress.
- Use planning records and reports to familiarize the local community, ARS suppliers, and stakeholders with our environmental stewardship upon request.
- Communicate and reinforce the EMS policy throughout our organization.
 - Share environmental management successes and progress with all ARS organizations.


Dr. Timothy C. Strickland, Location Coordinator
Tifton, Georgia
USDA, ARS, SAA

6/30/2005
Date